

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Donald J. Merkley, et al.

Application No.: 09/970,389



Filing Date: October 2, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1741

Examiner: Mark Halpern

Confirmation No.: 9683

For: Method and Apparatus for Reducing Impurities in  
Cellulose Fibers for Manufacture of Fiber Reinforced  
Cement Composite Materials

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**VIA EFS-Web**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND  
REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FINALITY OF LAST OFFICE ACTION**

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is responsive to an Office Action mailed July 18, 2011 (hereinafter "Office Action"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of said Office Action on the ground that the finality of the rejection is premature.

Applicants first wish to thank Primary Examiner Mark Halpern for holding a telephone interview with Applicants' representatives on October 4, 2011, and for agreeing to withdraw the finality of the Office Action upon showing that Applicants had only presented one amendment as part of the most recently filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE).